

We claim:

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1. A sanitary napkin having a pair of end edges, a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge located between the end edges, a backsheet layer, a substantially liquid permeable topsheet layer and an absorbent disposed between the 5 topsheet layer and the backsheet layer; the sanitary napkin including a selectively releasable, interengaging fastening system comprising:

a first wing extending from the first longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin and a second wing extending from the second longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin, each wing having a fixed end and a free end;

10 a first fastener component comprising at least a portion of the first wing and the second wing, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality engagement members; and

15 a cooperating fastener component comprising at least a portion of the first wing and the second wing such that the first and second wings of the sanitary napkin are capable of being joined by movement of the respective components together generally along an attachment direction into an overlapping and interengaging configuration;

20 wherein the first fastener component is configured on the first wing and the second wing so that the overlapped and interengaged wings are adapted to secure the sanitary napkin to an undergarment, and an unengaged first fastener component is positioned adjacent the backsheet so it is adapted to engage the fabric of an undergarment positioned between the backsheet and the wings.

25 2. The sanitary napkin of claim 1, wherein the first fastener component has a plurality of substantially non-isotropic engagement members such that the engagement section has an axis of substantially maximal engagement and the first fastener component is oriented so its axis of substantially maximal engagement is generally orthogonal to the attachment direction.

30 3. The sanitary napkin of claim 2, wherein each substantially non-isotropic engagement member has a stem portion with a distal end region and a securement element disposed at the distal end region of its corresponding stem portion.

35 4. The sanitary napkin of claim 1, wherein the second fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

5. The sanitary napkin of claim 4, wherein the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material.

6. The sanitary napkin of claim 1, wherein the fastening system can be used

to secure the sanitary napkin in a configuration convenient for disposal.

7. The sanitary napkin of claim 1, further comprising garment attachment adhesive on the backsheet layer.

8. The sanitary napkin of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second wings is substantially liquid permeable.

9. The sanitary napkin of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second wings is substantially liquid impermeable.

10. A multiple attachment system for a sanitary napkin having a pair of end edges, a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge located between the end edges, a backsheet layer, a substantially liquid permeable topsheet layer and an absorbent disposed between the topsheet layer and the backsheet layer; multiple attachment system including a selectively releasable, interengaging fastening system comprising:

15 a first wing extending from the first longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin and a second wing extending from the second longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin, each wing having a fixed end and a free end;

a first fastener component comprising at least a portion of the first wing and the second wing, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality of engagement members; and

20 a cooperating fastener component comprising at least a portion of the first wing and the second wing such that the first and second wings of the sanitary napkin are capable of being joined by movement of the respective components together generally along an attachment direction into an overlapping and interengaging configuration;

wherein the first fastener component is configured on the first wing and the second wing so the overlapped and interengaged wings are adapted to secure the sanitary napkin to an undergarment, and further present an unengaged first fastener component adjacent the backsheet so it is adapted to engage the fabric of an undergarment positioned between the backsheet and the wings.

11. The multiple attachment system of claim 10, wherein the first fastener component has a plurality of substantially non-isotropic engagement members such that the engagement section has an axis of substantially maximal engagement and the first fastener component is oriented so its axis of substantially maximal engagement is generally orthogonal to the attachment direction.

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12. The multiple attachment system of claim 10, wherein each substantially non-isotropic engagement member has a stem portion with a distal end region and a securement element disposed at the distal end region of its corresponding stem portion.

13. The multiple attachment system of claim 10, wherein the second fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

14. The multiple attachment system of claim 13, wherein the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material.

15. The multiple attachment system of claim 10, wherein the attachment system can be used to secure the sanitary napkin in a configuration convenient for disposal.

16. The multiple attachment system of claim 10, further comprising garment attachment adhesive on the backsheet layer.

17. A sanitary napkin having a pair of end edges, a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge located between the end edges, a backsheet layer, a substantially liquid permeable topsheet layer and an absorbent disposed between the topsheet layer and the backsheet layer; the sanitary napkin including a multiple attachment system comprising:

a first wing extending from the first longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin and a second wing extending from the second longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin, each wing having a fixed end and a free end;

a first fastener component comprising at least a portion of a bottom surface of the first wing and the second wing, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality of engagement members; and

a cooperating fastener component comprising at least a portion of a top surface of the first wing and the second wing such that the first and second wings can be interengaged by bringing a top and bottom surface of respective wings into an overlapping configuration;

wherein the interengaged wings are adapted to secure the sanitary napkin to an undergarment, and further present an unengaged first fastener component adjacent the backsheet so it is adapted to engage the fabric of an undergarment positioned between the backsheet and the wings.

18. The sanitary napkin of claim 17, wherein the wings of the sanitary napkin can be moved together into their overlapping configuration generally along an attachment direction.

19. The sanitary napkin of claim 17, wherein the first fastener component has a plurality of substantially non-isotropic engagement members such that the engagement section has an axis of substantially maximal engagement.

5 *Sub B14* 20. The sanitary napkin of claim 19, wherein the first fastener component is oriented so its axis of substantially maximal engagement is generally orthogonal to the attachment direction.

21. The sanitary napkin of claim 19, wherein each substantially non-isotropic engagement member has a stem portion with a distal end region and a securement element disposed at the distal end region of its corresponding stem portion.

10 *Sub B15* 22. The sanitary napkin of claim 17, wherein the second fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

23. The sanitary napkin of claim 22, wherein the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material.

24. The sanitary napkin of claim 17, wherein the attachment system can be used to secure the sanitary napkin in a configuration convenient for disposal.

25. The sanitary napkin of claim 17, further comprising garment attachment adhesive on the backsheet layer.

20 26. The sanitary napkin of claim 17, wherein at least one wing includes perforation lines adjacent its fixed end to provide quick removal of the napkin by tearing the wing along the perforation lines.

Sub B16 27. A sanitary napkin having a pair of end edges, a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge located between the end edges, a backsheet layer, a substantially liquid permeable topsheet layer and an absorbent disposed between the topsheet layer and the backsheet layer;

25 the sanitary napkin further including a pair of wings, each wing extending a longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin and each wing having a fixed end and a free end; each wing comprising:

30 a first fastener component on a lower surface of the wing, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality engagement members; and

a cooperating fastener component on an upper surface of the wing such that the wings of the sanitary napkin are capable of being joined by bringing the top and bottom surface of respective wings into an overlapping and interengaging configuration;

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wherein the interengaged wings are adapted to secure the sanitary napkin to an undergarment and further present an unengaged first fastener component adjacent the backsheet so it is adapted to engage the fabric of an undergarment positioned between the backsheet and the wings.

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28. A sanitary napkin including an attachment system comprising:
- a pair of wings including selectively releasable, interengaging fasteners such that the wings are adapted to hold the sanitary napkin to an undergarment; and
 - a fastener component including a plurality of engagement members so it is adapted to engage the fabric of an undergarment.

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